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NO DAMAGE SEEN FROM SPY PHOTOS

STAT

By ROBIN TONER
Special to The New York Times

BALTIMORE, Oct. 15 — A retired official of the Central Intelligence Agency testified today that three classified photographs that were given to a British publication last year "would cause no damage or injury to the United States."

The assessment by Roland S. Inlow, a witness for the defense in the espionage trial of Samuel Loring Morison, directly contradicted testimony by witnesses for the prosecution. Those witnesses had said that the satellite photographs, showing a Soviet ship under construction at a Black Sea shipyard, could have updated the Russians' knowledge of American technology and procedures.

Mr. Morison, a former civilian naval analyst, is accused of passing the secret photographs to Jane's Defence Weekly, a British publication, and keeping other classified information in his home.

Last week a top C.I.A. official said their release could have provided the Soviet Union with a range of information on the capabilities of the KH-11, the satellite that produced them.

But Mr. Inlow said today, "I know of nothing in them that would be valuable to the Soviet Union."

Before his retirement in 1979, Mr. Inlow was closely involved in the KH-11 satellite program, he testified. He was chairman of an interagency committee that coordinated requests for satellite data from various American intelligence organizations.

A 'Ho-Hum' Reaction

When he opened a magazine in August 1984 and saw the KH-11 photographs of the Soviet ship, Mr. Inlow said, "In all honesty, my reaction was much more ho-hum than 'oh, my God.'"

Mr. Inlow noted that the Soviet Union had already obtained the technical manual for the KH-11 system. He said that he was in charge of assessing the damage to the intelligence community from the sale of that manual.

Given the level of information the Russians already had from the manual and other sources, Mr. Inlow said he could see no further benefit they could draw from the photographs.

As for arguments that China might have benefited, Mr. Inlow said he believed the Chinese were mainly concerned about Soviet satellites over their country, not American.

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